

D. 3547.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. B. REGISTRY

No. D

5597

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S. M. P. Armoury.

August 18, 1931.

Watchmen's Pistols

D. C. (Crime).

Sir,

There seems to be a slight misunderstanding of my responsibility as M/O which so far as weapons are concerned is as follows :-

1. Care and distribution of all Police Weapons, which includes 500 set aside for Watchmen and of which are Police property.
 2. I am not in any way responsible for Watchmen Weapons even if they are licensed, on account of them being private property.
 3. It is only a concession and is entirely a private matter between the Armourer and the owner if he repairs a licensed weapon for anyone.
 4. The repair of an unlicensed weapon by the Armourer is prohibited.
 5. The Armeurer acting under my advice, will not now repair any weapon unless he can guarantee it.
 6. The fact that my name appears on a Memo notifying the Stations that a weapon will not justify it being repaired, is only owing to the Armourer not being able to write English.
- Quite a number of weapons that have in the past been licensed for use of Watchmen should not have been. They are in a number of cases "not safe" and even dangerous.
- I have not confiscated any pistol or gun and have not the power to do so. I would however strongly advise that you order your men

*not now
Court Park have
seen*

by the Courts or surrendered by individuals. They are then recommended to the Commissioner for his approval for destruction in the usual manner. When a weapon supplied by the Police for Watchmen is found defective and beyond repair it is withdrawn from issue and kept in the Armoury until permission is obtained from the C. of P. to destroy it.

9. We have over 6000 police weapons in the Force awaiting overhaul, a great number of which are in a disgraceful state owing to the neglect of those who were responsible for their deficiency and I can not at the present time undertake any further responsibility such as going into consultation with owners of private weapons to try and convince them that they should surrender their defective weapons for destruction. In say, 18/20 months time the Armoury may be able to handle this matter, but at the present time, it is impossible as stated above.
- True but private
unlicensed weapons
have been on draft
at Stations. See*

10. I would submit that where Stations or the Licensing Section have weapons that the owner cannot get repaired (Lee's) that the owner be notified that after an interval of one month that the weapons will be taken to Court and permission asked to have them destroyed or confiscated, as it is obvious that the license only covers a Safe and Effective Weapon.
- Leasee conditions
do not provide that
weapons must be
safe & if a person
wants to become an
old relic I cannot
see any objection
in the name
of Court.*

The origin of the weapons in question is :-

- A. Private weapons purchased privately by the owners.
- B. They may have been purchased through members of the Force as a matter of courtesy.
- C. None of these weapons have been purchased from the Police Dept..

*Not true
but some
are
of Police
Dept.*

The only weapon the Police Dept. have even sold are

Colt Auto: Pistol which can be repaired, as we carry
spares.

The majority of these weapons are "Junk" and would never have been approved for service for Watchmen by the present Licensing Section.

They were never in the Police Store or even registered there and the Police are in no way called upon to assist in having them repaired. They have never passed through Police hands and if they have a "Court Record" it is not officially known, I would go so far as to say that the majority were imported without a Customs Permit.

W Starbana

Musketry Officer.

The remarks above are irrelevant as I now understand that this, also, refers to weapons privately supplied & not to Ordnance weapons used for watchmen.

KCA.